

REMARKS:

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 17, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32, 33, 34, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, and 43 are pending in the application. No claims have been allowed. Claims 1, 2, 15, 23, 25, 37, 38, and 39 are independent.

Restriction Requirement

The Action requires restriction to Group I or Group II (Claims 35, 36, and 42). Accordingly, Applicants elect Group I and cancel claims 35, 36, and 42 without disclaimer or prejudice to pursuing the canceled claims in a divisional or other application.

Applicants have amended claim 37 of Group I to be in independent form and also added new claim 43, which depends from Group I's 37.

Presentation of Claims Defining Same Patentable Invention

Per 37 C.F.R. § 10.23(c)(7), Applicants hereby identify Patent Application No. 10/410,307, which has claims that are or were identical to (i.e., copied from) Applicants' application.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants file herewith an Information Disclosure Statement.

Request for Interview

If any issues remain, the Examiner is formally requested to contact the undersigned attorney prior to issuance of the next Office Action in order to arrange a telephonic interview.

This request is being submitted under MPEP § 713.01, which indicates that an interview may be arranged in advance by a written request.

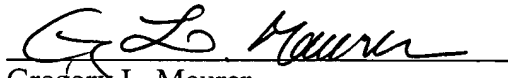
Conclusion

The claims in their present form should now be allowable. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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